

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response dated July 20, 2004
Reply to OA of April 20, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. Claims 12-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-11 have been amended herein. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 20, 2004.

The specification and drawing amendments are discussed below with regard to the objection to the drawings.

The claim amendments are made for clarity. In claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 11, the recitation "that said main body side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles ..." has been amended to --that said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles ...--. Support for this amendment may be found in Figs. 6(a) to 11(b) and the description on page 31, line 24, to page 32, line 7, of the specification.

Claims 5 and 9 are amended for grammatical clarity only, rearranging a phrase in the claims.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed in part, and overcome in part by the amendment to Fig. 5(b), as explained below.

1) The Examiner states that the embodiment of claim 5, “wherein said main body side coupling portion fits in a filtration portion side fitting member”, is not illustrated. Applicants submit, however, that this aspect of claim 5 is illustrated by the drawings.

Applicants note that the term “main body side coupling portion” appears in many places in the specification, and is associated with reference numeral 39 starting on page 24, line 20 of the specification. Reference numeral 39 appears in Figures 5-11.

Applicants also note that the term “filtration portion side fitting member” is the same as “a pair of rotation preventing stoppers 49 and 49' (stoppers 49 and 49'),” which are illustrated in Fig. 5(b). Additionally, the embodiment in which the main body side coupling portion (51) fits with stoppers 49 and 49' (“filtration portion side fitting member”) is described in the specification on page 28, lines 7-14; page 34, line 24 to page 35, line 19.

Therefore the “main body side coupling portion” and the “filtration portion side fitting member” and their relationship are illustrated in the claims..

2) The Examiner states that the embodiment of claims 7 and 11, in which the “filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion” is not illustrated. The objection is overcome by the amendment to Fig. 5(b).

Applicants note that “the filtration portion side stopping member” corresponds to stoppers 48 and 48' in Fig. 5(b).

In the proposed amendment to Fig. 5(b), the arrow in the original Fig. 5(b) has been labeled with reference numeral 74. The amendment to the specification on page 25, line 10, indicates that arrow 74 refers to the “axial core direction.”

In addition, Fig. 5(b) is amended to add arrow 75, which is the “**one particular direction** that intersects substantially at right angles with the axial core direction,” as disclosed on page 25, line 8-10. The specification has been amended to indicate that arrow 75 refers to this “one particular direction.”

Therefore, as amended, the drawings do illustrate the embodiment in which the filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction to cross substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration side coupling portion as recited in claims 7 and 11, in Figs. 5 (a) and (b) and Figs. 6(a) and (b).

Claims 5, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

1) The Examiner indicates a lack of enablement for the recitation “said main body side coupling portion fits in a filtration portion side fitting member provided to said water purifier filtration portion” in claim 5.

The term “filtration portion side fitting member” appears in the specification on page 35, line 22; page 57, line 2; and page 61, lines 7 and 10. As noted above with regard to the objection to the drawings, “the filtration portion side fitting member” is the same as “the rotation preventing stoppers

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49 and 49', described on page 28, lines 7-14, and page 34, line 24, to page 35, line 19. Rotation preventing stoppers 49 and 49' are illustrated in the drawings, and could be made by one of skill in the art. Applicants therefore submit that the "filtration portion side fitting member" is enabled.

2) The Examiner indicates a lack of enablement for the recitation "filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion."

Applicants submit that this recitation of the claims is enabled, but Applicants believe that the rejection may have arisen from a lack of clarity in the claims. Applicants have therefore amended the claims for clarity, as noted above.

In traversing the rejection, Applicants respectfully note again that "filtration portion side stopping member" is the same as stoppers 48 and 48'. Applicants submit that the recitation referred to by the Examiner is well illustrated in the drawings and that one of skill in the art could make the recited apparatus.

Reconsideration of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Heiligman.

The rejection of claims 7 and 11 is respectfully traversed. Applicants note that claims 7 and 11 have been amended to clarify the invention by reciting that both the "filtration portion side

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stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction ...”

The Examiner cites elements in Heiligman as follows:

Claim 7

raw water accepting inlet
purified water outlet
filtration portion side coupling portion
filtration portion side stopping member
main body side stopping member

Heiligman

boss 34b (Figs 1, 2, 3a)
water dispensing outlet 54
boss 34b
clip 34c
duct 30

Applicants note that the Examiner has assigned boss 34b in Heiligman (column 3, line 55) to be both the “raw water accepting inlet” and the “filtration portion side coupling portion” of claim 7. The “raw water accepting inlet 32” is a portion of “filtration portion side coupling portion 51” in Fig. 5(b) of the present application.

Applicants further note that the Examiner has assigned clip 34c and duct 30 as the “filtration portion side stopping member” and the “main body side stopping member,” respectively. Heiligman’s states in column 3, lines 54:

“The filter housing is provided with an opening 38 in boss 34b in which the duct 30 can be secured as with a retaining clip 34c connected by means of an integral hinge 34d to boss 34b. The clip 34c extends through a slot 34e in the boss 34a into a groove 30d in the duct 30.”

Clip 34c and duct 30 can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Heiligman’s retaining clip 34c serves to lock together the duct 30 with boss 38b.

However, the last clause of claim 7, as amended, recites:

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“wherein said filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.”

This clause specifically limits the motion allowed by the arrangement of stopping members. For clarity, Applicants have amended Fig. 5(b) to include arrow 75 indicating this one direction, as discussed above.

As noted above, the recited “filtration portion side stopping member” corresponds to stoppers 48 and 48’ in Fig. 5(b) of the present application. Applicants submit that Heiligman’s clip 34c (taken as the filtration side stopping member) and duct 30 (taken as the main body side stopping member) do **not** “move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.”

With regard to claim 11, the Examiner assigns elements in Heiligman as follows:

Claim 11

water purifier filtration portion
water purifier main body
raw water accepting inlet
filtration portion side stopping member
main body side stopping member

Heiligman

(not specified)
diverter body 20
boss 34b
clip 34c
duct 30

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The assignment of elements for claim 11 is therefore similar to that for claim 7. In particular, the filtration portion side stopping member and the main body side stopping member are again taken to correspond to Heiligman's clip 34c and duct 30, respectively. Similarly to claim 7, claim 11 recites that:

“said filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction ...”

Again, Heiligman does not disclose this structural relationship.

Applicants therefore submit that claims 7 and 11 are not anticipated by Heiligman.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heiligman.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claims 1-3 and 5, The Examiner cites elements in Heiligman as follows:

<u>Claims 1-5</u>	<u>Heiligman</u>
water purifier main body	diverter body 20
raw water inlet	swivel collar 18
raw water supply inlet	duct 30
main body side coupling portion	duct 30
main body side stopping member	duct 30
filtration portion side stopping member	clip 34c
supporting member	clip 34c
filtration portion side fitting member	boss 34b
main body side fitting member	non-circular portion 30a

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Applicants note that the Examiner cites duct 30 as corresponding to three elements in claim

1. However, Applicants submit that it does not appear that Heiligman's duct 30 represents a separate stopping member.

Moreover, as amended, claim 1 recites the limitation:

“wherein said filtration portion side stopping member is provided in such a manner that said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of said water purifier filtration portion and said water purifier main body.”

Similarly with Applicants above arguments regarding claim 7, Applicants submit that Heiligman does **not** disclose this limitation of claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3 and 5.

Moreover, with regard to claim 2, the Examiner further cites clip 34c in Heiligman as the supporting member in claim 2. Note that this assignment requires that clip 34c be both the filtration portion side stopping member as well as the supporting member. In the present specification, release button 41 is indicated to be the supporting member on page 25, line 6, and this appears to be a separate element in the Figures. Claim 2 further recites the location of the supporting member as “sandwiched by a pair of outer edge portions provided to an inner wall of said main body side coupling portion” Applicants submit that this is inconsistent with the structure of clip 34c, which is on the outside.

With regard to claim 6, the Examiner cites elements in Heiligman as follows:

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Claim 6

raw water accepting inlet
purified water outlet
filtration portion side coupling portion
filtration portion side stopping member
main body side stopping member

Heiligman

boss 34b
water dispensing outlet 54
boss 34b
clip 34c
duct 30

Applicants note that these assignments are similar to those for the rejection of claim 7, discussed above. Applicants have argued above that Heiligman does not disclose the structural relationship between the main body side stopping member and the filtration portion side stopping member in claim 7, and a corresponding limitation is recited in claim 6.

In the rejection of claim 10, the Examiner cites elements in Heiligman as follows:

Claim 10

water purifier main body
water purifier filtration portion
raw water inlet
main body side coupling portion
water purifier filtration portion
main body side stopping member
filtration portion side stopping member

Heiligman

diverter body 20
filter housing 34
swivel collar 18
duct 30
filter housing 34
duct 30
clip 34c

The Examiner states that Heiligman differs from claim 10 only in disclosing a side stopping member (clip 34c) that it is provided to the water purifier filtration portion (filter housing 34) instead of the main body (diverter body 20). However, claim 10 requires **two** stopping members, one on the main body and one on the filtration portion. A stopping member on the main body would have to be the “main body side stopping member”. Therefore, as stated, the Examiner’s rejection does not merely involve a “reversal of parts”, but rather **lacks** a corresponding part. Moreover, claim 10 also recites a structural limitation on the main body side coupling portion and the filtration portion side

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stopping member corresponding to that discussed above for claims 1, 6, 7, and 11, which Applicants submit is not disclosed in Heiligman.

Applicants therefore assert that claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 are not anticipated by, and are non-obvious over, Heiligman.

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have argued above against the rejection of base claim 1. Claim 4 has therefore not been amended to be independent.

Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have argued above against the rejections of base claim 7. Applicants have therefore not amended claim 8 to be independent.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheet of Drawing (Figs. 5(a) and (b))
Marked-up Sheet of Drawing (Figs. 5(a) and (b))

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Fig. 5(a)

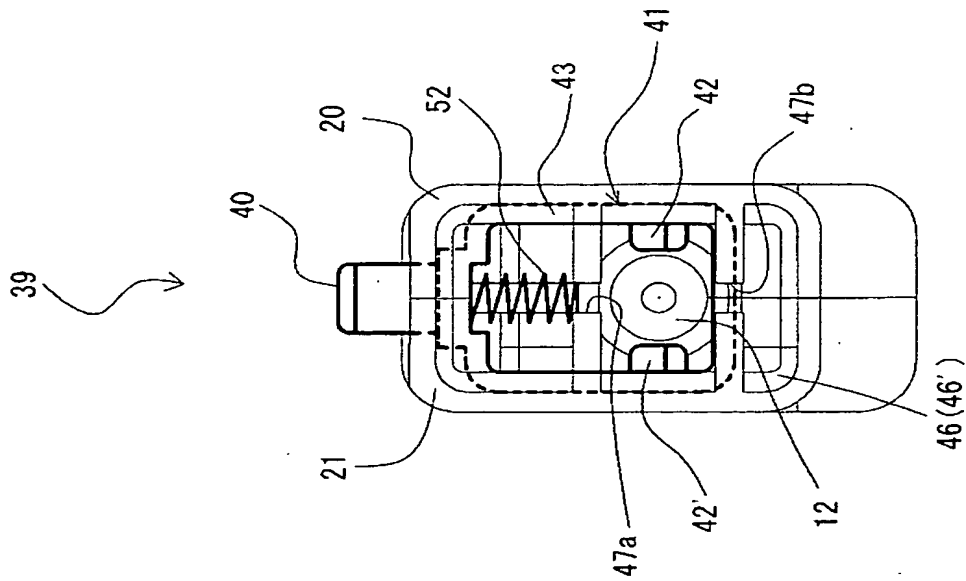


Fig. 5(b)

